

dedicated to making Nevada's capital the best it can be. I am thankful for their leadership and for the great things they are doing for businesses in Northern Nevada.

For the past 70 years, the Carson City Chamber of Commerce has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and true dedication to Nevada. Without the hard work of those who have served this chamber, Carson City would not have developed to be the city it is today. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Carson City Chamber of Commerce on its 70th anniversary and in thanking it for all it does to press on and find ways to unleash the Nevada comeback.●

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT JON WRIGHT, RETIRED

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate SGT Jon Wright, Retired, on receiving a Bronze Star with V-Device for valor, honoring his heroic actions while serving this great Nation. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Wright for both his bravery and his accomplishments during his time with the U.S. Army.

On March 24, 2010, Mr. Wright, who was serving in Afghanistan, led and acted as security for a squad of engineers and explosive ordnance disposal team members working to diminish improvised explosive devices, IEDs. Soldiers from Wright's squad noticed three bystanders, one of whom threw a grenade, landing between Mr. Wright and another sergeant. Mr. Wright quickly responded by picking up the grenade and throwing it away from his group, ultimately saving the lives of those around him. His lifesaving actions were heroic and selfless and remain invaluable to this country.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Wright for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our nation.

His commitment to helping those around him, as well as serving the country, demonstrates his unwavering selfless character. His actions represent only the greatest of Nevada's values, including a sense of community and an obligation to help others.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. Mr. Wright's sacrifice warrants only the greatest respect and care in return.

Mr. Wright continues to serve his community and now lives in Lovelock with his wife and three children. He re-

tired from the U.S. Army nearly 4 years ago and earned a degree in environmental science from American Military University. He now works for a mining company and the local youth football league.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Wright demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the U.S. Army. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Jon Wright on his much-deserved accolade and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING DELTA FUEL

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses are often vital in driving rural economies. The success of these entities provides crucial job creation and economic opportunity—especially among low-income and minority populations. This week I am proud to recognize Delta Fuel of Ferriday, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

In 1977, a small bulk fuel distributor serving ranchers and farmers was founded in the heart of the Louisiana and Mississippi Delta region. Today, Delta Fuel has grown to employ over 65 workers between their eight operations—7 in Louisiana and 1 in Mississippi—serving a cross-section of the agriculture, construction, aviation, marine, government, manufacturing, automotive, emergency response, and trucking industries with a variety of fuels, lubes, tanks, trailers, oil stations, and lube equipment. In a State known for its robust energy and natural resource industries, Delta Fuel's reputation for dependability, reliability, and exceptional service standards has helped it become one of the fastest growing distributors in the southeast.

In rural east Louisiana, Clint Vegas, president of Delta Fuel, has led the company to exponential growth, earning the company numerous recognitions as one of the most successful Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States. Vegas' business skills have led to crucial job creation for the region. Delta Fuel's success can be attributed in part to their being located in a Historically Underutilized Business Zone, or HUBZone. The Small Business Administration's HUBZone program was created to spur economic activity in economically disadvantaged areas—helping small businesses in urban and rural communities gain preferential access to government contracting opportunities. By using the resources at hand, including the HUBZone program, Delta Fuel has been able to expand, resulting in the addition of numerous jobs and service centers throughout the rural east Louisiana region.

Congratulations again to Delta Fuel for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your continued commitment to creating quality

jobs and advancing economic opportunity in East Louisiana.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:51 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2505. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the annual reporting of data on enrollment in Medicare Advantage plans.

H.R. 2507. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish an annual rulemaking schedule for payment rates under Medicare Advantage.

H.R. 2570. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the treatment of patient encounters in ambulatory surgical centers in determining meaningful EHR use, establish a demonstration program requiring the utilization of Value-Based Insurance Design to demonstrate that reducing the copayments or coinsurance charged to Medicare beneficiaries for selected high-value prescription medications and clinical services can increase their utilization and ultimately improve clinical outcomes and lower health care expenditures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2582. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay the authority to terminate Medicare Advantage contracts for MA plans failing to achieve minimum quality ratings, to make improvements to the Medicare Adjustment risk adjustment system, and for other purposes.

At 1:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2146) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers to make penalty-free withdrawals from governmental plans after age 50, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2505. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the annual reporting of data on enrollment in Medicare Advantage plans; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2507. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish an annual rulemaking schedule for payment rates under Medicare Advantage; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2570. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the treatment of patient encounters in ambulatory surgical centers in determining meaningful EHR use, establish a demonstration program requiring the utilization of Value-Based Insurance Design to demonstrate that reducing the copayments or coinsurance charged to Medicare beneficiaries for selected high-value prescription medications and clinical services can increase their utilization and ultimately improve clinical outcomes and lower health care expenditures